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# PUBLIC HEALTH REPORTS

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## HEROIN SOLD TO A MINOR.

**DAMAGES AWARDED TO A PARENT BECAUSE OF THE SALE OF A HABIT-FORMING DRUG TO A MINOR CHILD.**

A widow in the State of New York has secured a judgment against a firm of druggists because of the sale of heroin to her son, a boy about 18 years of age. The jury allowed \$2,000 compensatory damages and \$1,000 punitive damages.

In affirming the judgment, Judge Howard, of the New York Supreme Court, said: "During the time when these defendants were supplying this drug to the young man he became a vagabond, an idler, a drug fiend, and a criminal, undutiful to his mother, worthless to himself, dangerous to the community. The jury was right in concluding that all this was the result of the illicit traffic carried on by these defendants, and that they should be punished for their reckless disregard of the rights and welfare of this boy and his mother."

The opinion is published in full in this issue of the Public Health Reports, page 1563.

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## QUARANTINE REQUIREMENTS.

**For Ports of the United States South of Maryland.**

The following instructions have been issued to officers of the United States Public Health Service on duty at quarantine stations:

The following provisions will apply to vessels from Mexico arriving at a port of the United States south of the southern boundary of Maryland during the close quarantine season:

1. Vessels from Progreso, Tuxpam, or Frontera that have discharged or loaded cargo at sea and have not been alongside a wharf, have had no crew ashore, and carry no passengers, may be passed without fumigation or detention of crew or vessel, provided all are well upon arrival and the above provisions have been certified to by an accredited medical officer of the United States.

2. Vessels from all other Mexican ports and those from Progreso, Tuxpam, or Frontera that have not complied with the foregoing requirements shall be treated according to the provisions of paragraph 105, Service Regulations.

Vessels from Colombia, Venezuela, or any other port of South America or the West Indies suspected of being infected with yellow fever shall be treated according to paragraph 105, Service Regulations.

### For Vessels Leaving Habana, Cuba.

The following instructions have been issued to shipping agents by the officer of the United States Public Health Service, at Habana, Cuba:

A. Every vessel leaving Habana for United States ports must have been fumigated at least once within the 30 days preceding date of sailing, preferably when empty and at the port of Habana.

B. A duly executed certificate of fumigation from an officer of the United States Public Health Service, certifying that the vessel has been fumigated within one month prior to sailing, will be accepted as evidence that the above provision has been complied with. No other certificate of fumigation will be accepted for this purpose.

## NEW JERSEY TO ENFORCE NOTIFICATION.

### ANNOUNCES INTENTION TO ENFORCE REPORTING OF THE NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

The Department of Health of the State of New Jersey recently announced in its monthly bulletin for May, 1916, its intention to enforce the State requirements regarding the reporting of the notifiable diseases. This is of special interest, for although most States have laws or regulations requiring the reporting of cases of certain diseases, it is not believed that at present any State is enforcing its requirements. New Jersey would appear to be the pioneer in this regard. The announcement is as follows:

At its meeting on April 4 the State department of health took action looking toward the enforcement of the law concerning the reporting of the communicable diseases. The procedure adopted for securing the reporting of these diseases to local boards of health by physicians is as follows:

1. That in all cases where the State department of health shall have knowledge of failure on the part of any physician to report a case of reportable disease attended by him to the proper local authority of the sanitary district in which the case exists, the director of health shall refer the facts to the proper local health authorities with a request that they immediately investigate the case and take such action as the facts warrant to secure compliance with the law.

2. In case the local authorities fail to investigate the case or to enforce the law, they shall be summoned before the director to explain their failure to do so, and if no good reason be shown an order shall be served by the director under the provision of section 4, subsection (d) chapter 288, Laws of 1915, directing the local officials to enforce the law.

3. If the local officials fail, after having been ordered by the director to enforce the law, then the director shall take such action as the above-named act provides for their enforcement.

The law requires physicians to report cases of communicable diseases to the local board of health, and the local board is required to transmit the reports to the State department of health. When certain communicable diseases occur on dairy premises the physician is also required to report direct to the State department.

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The diseases now required to be reported within 12 hours after the physician's first professional attendance upon the case are, cholera, yellow fever, typhus fever;